

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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**LIHEAP INNOVATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS**

The California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) receives federal funds to install weatherization and other energy efficiency measures in homes where the household income is below the federal eligibility guidelines. CSD has reserved \$2.5 million of its 2009 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant to fund **Innovative Energy Projects**. In addition, CSD receives an annual .08% allotment of the LIHEAP Allocation, which, this year, totals \$179,182. CSD seeks to award from one to three proposals that will demonstrate an innovative approach or approaches to leveraging that can be implemented statewide.

CSD will be inviting LIHEAP service providers to submit innovative energy-related project proposals that will test and quantify one or more of the following **objectives**:

- *Reduce the energy consumption and the energy burden* for each home weatherized through the LIHEAP weatherization program.
- *Increase energy efficiency* of eligible low-income dwellings.
- *Increase health and safety* of home energy systems for LIHEAP eligible clients.
- *Reduce greenhouse gas emissions* and related pollutants through energy efficiency retrofits, repairs and/or HVAC repairs or replacements.
- *Improve existing energy efficiency programs* through innovation, leveraging and coordination of resources.
- Proposals submitted for the additional leveraging dollars are intended for projects which identify, develop and demonstrate leveraging programs.

CSD encourages each Innovative Energy Project proposal to further the goals of the department and its energy programs, including:

- *Direct benefits for low-income families* by reducing their energy burden.
- *Increase health and safety benefits* for LIHEAP eligible clients.
- *Green job development* such as on-the-job training of low-income workers in weatherization, residential solar and home energy systems.
- *Leverage other resources*, as applicable;
- *Produce measurable energy or environmental benefits* for the community and State;
- *Able to be replicated* by other LIHEAP service providers in other areas of the State except in cases where municipal utilities or other specific entities are part of the proposal's workplan.

The funding is subject to LIHEAP weatherization rules. As such, proposals will be accepted only from existing LIHEAP service providers that possess the leadership, organizational and technical capacity to administer the projects. In addition, the **ideal Innovative Energy Project proposal** should include:

- *Community Partners*: CSD encourages partnerships where the applicant serves as a lead and then partners with or subgrants to other LIHEAP- or CSBG-funded organizations.
- *Job Development Program*: CSD encourages LIHEAP Service Providers to utilize low-income trainees hired through employment development programs and apprenticeship programs when possible.
- *Leveraging*: CSD encourages LIHEAP Service Providers to leverage other private or public resources for projects that require matching funds per project design.

- *Workplan:* The project should begin September 30, 2009 and be completed within twelve months.
- *Project Budget:* This should illustrate the total costs of the project, including the source and amount of funding for costs not supported by LIHEAP.
- *Program Evaluation.* A final report detailing the project's goals, objectives, outcomes, lessons learned and blueprint for implementation by other LIHEAP providers.

CSD looks forward to receiving Innovative Energy Project proposals from LIHEAP service providers interested in testing renewable energy and/or other innovative projects under the LIHEAP program for low-income Californians. The official request for proposals will be released according to the following timeline:

Proposal Timeline

February 5, 2009	Call for Proposals released
February 24, 2009	On-line "webinar," an information workshop to review project requirements and answer potential bidders' questions. See www.csd.ca.gov for call-in instructions.
March 9, 2009	Letters of Intent to Bid Due
April 9, 2009	RFP released
April 22, 2009	Deadline for bidders to submit written questions to CSD
April 29, 2009	CSD to post responses to written questions at www.csd.ca.gov
June 8, 2009	Proposals Due
September 30, 2009	Contracts in place. Work begins.

Letters of Intent to Bid

- CSD requests potential bidders submit Letters of Intent to Bid. The letters are optional and are intended to serve a dual purpose:
 1. To help CSD plan its resources for reviewing proposals; and
 2. To allow potential bidders to ask CSD questions regarding their proposed project's eligibility for LIHEAP funding.
 - a. If bidders are uncertain whether or not their proposed project is eligible for LIHEAP funding, and if bidders present sufficient information in their Letter of Intent to Bid, CSD will provide early determinations as to whether the proposed expenditures are allowable under the LIHEAP block grant rules.
 - b. Proposed projects will not be reviewed for their merits.
 - c. CSD will only address specific questions posed by bidders.
- Letters of Intent are not required, however they are encouraged. CSD will accept letters of intent through March 9, 2009.
- Letters should clearly distinguish between an intent to bid for the \$2.5 million Innovative Energy Project funds and an intent to bid for the \$179,182 leveraging funds.
- CSD will keep the content of all Letters of Intent to Bid confidential until after CSD has awarded the funds.

For More Information

For the most current information, please visit www.csd.ca.gov. Go to "CSD Contractors" and click on the link: *Innovative Projects: Call for Proposals*.